

# Dundee Area Badminton Association (DABA)

## Rules for Competitive Badminton

### Version History

Revision No.	Date	Description
0	24/7/19	DABA Rules agreed at DABA Committee Meeting, to be taken to AGM
1	29/11/19	Update to Articles 1.3, 1.4 & 1.5 after discussion at AGM

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This document sets out the rules employed during the different DABA-sanctioned competitions taking place in the area.

## **1.0 Over-arching Rules**

These rules apply to all DABA events.

Children and Vulnerable Adults are welcome to play in any team. It is the sole responsibility of the relevant club to put in place all relevant safeguards to protect all such Children and Vulnerable Adults.

All matches shall be played in accordance with the current Laws of Badminton issued by the Badminton World Federation, unless otherwise stated, available from the DABA Website.

A match, a rubber and a set are all defined in Article 1.5 below.

Players and spectators are reminded that coaching (defined as any form of advice or guidance) during or between rallies is strictly prohibited although coaching between sets or rubbers is permitted.

Before play commences in any set or rubber a shuttle shall be tossed into the air by any player; the side to which the shuttle "points" is deemed to be the winning side and has the choice to either serve or receive first or to choose which side of the court to begin on. The side that lost the initial shuttle toss can then make a choice on the remaining option. For example if the side that won the shuttle toss decide that they want to start the match from a particular side of the court then the other side will choose whether they want to serve or receive first.

The season is defined as from the date of the Match Secretaries' meeting up to and including April 30<sup>th</sup>.

A Breach of any of the rules in this document may result in the offending team being subject to sanctions. The sanction will be decided on a case by case basis by the Committee.

## **1.1 Main League**

### 1.2 Format of the league and divisions

Prior to the start of each season, it will be decided how many teams are competing in the league, how the divisions will be composed and which teams are to be promoted and relegated based on the previous season. This will be done by, and is at the discretion of, the Committee. Thus the number of divisions will also be decided at this point dependent upon the number of teams competing. Any new teams joining the league will ordinarily enter into the bottom division, however as described above, this will be at the discretion of the Committee. There must be at least 5 teams in each division.

### 1.3 Arranging Fixtures

Fixtures will be arranged at the Match Secretaries' meeting. Ordinarily during the season each team must play against every other team in their division at least twice. This should take the form of 'home' and 'away' fixtures. Under exceptional circumstances, and by mutual agreement, a team may play against another team either at home twice or away twice or at a neutral venue. This would only be acceptable if the hall availability for one team was such that it would be impossible for the away team to ever field a team. The Committee reserves the right to deviate from a format where each team plays each of the other teams in their division twice. In such circumstances the Committee will provide further instruction around arranging fixtures.

### 1.4 Multiple teams in same division

A club may have more than one team in the same division. The matches these teams play against each other will be completed by the end of January of any given season with the first match being completed by the end of November.

Should the leagues be set up in such a way in which teams may not play each other twice during the course of season the Committee will provide instruction as to when matches between teams from the same club should play each other by.

### 1.5 Format of match

A match, and thus each fixture, shall consist of two teams, comprising of three ladies and three gents, contesting nine rubbers (a rubber is defined as the best of 2 sets, so it is possible to win, lose or draw a rubber): two rubbers of ladies' doubles, two rubbers of gents' doubles and five rubbers of mixed doubles. A set is won by the side first to 21 by 2 clear points or by 2 clear points until 29-29 when the next point wins. At the end of the first set of each rubber, the teams shall swap ends. At the start of the match the teams will be entered on the scoresheet. Both the home team and the away team should enter their teams on the scoresheet independently so that neither team gains an advantage by seeing how the opposition team is lined up. The order of rubbers played will follow that on the scoresheet (Appendix I) wherever possible. It is acceptable to alter the order of play so long as this is agreed at the start of the match by the captains for both teams. Play must commence within 15 minutes of the arranged time for the match. Failure by a team to be on court(s) and ready to play within those 15 minutes shall result in that team forfeiting any unfinished sets 21-0 at the end of the match. Where matches have begun on time, any unfinished sets shall be forfeited by the home team 21-0. At the end of the match all of the scores and thus the final score and result shall be agreed by both team captains.

### 1.6 Minimum Team Requirements

To take part in a match a team must constitute a minimum of two mixed couples (i.e. there must be at least 2 ladies and 2 gents fielded). In the case whereby a team only has 2 ladies and 2 gents the positions of 3<sup>rd</sup> lady and 3<sup>rd</sup> gent must be filled in order for the match to go ahead. This is the only way in which a team with 4 players can compete in 5 rubbers (1 ladies' doubles, 1 gents' doubles and 3 mixed doubles) and thus have a theoretical chance of winning the match. In the event of a team only being able to field 5 players the 3<sup>rd</sup> positions must again be filled (i.e. 3<sup>rd</sup> lady and 3<sup>rd</sup> gent). This is to ensure all players on both sides are able to play at least 1 rubber.

### 1.7 Venue

All venues shall generally comply with Badminton World Federation "The Laws of Badminton" (eg. in terms of court size, lines, nets, net posts, lighting, surface characteristics, run-off areas, ceiling height etc). The Committee recognise the importance of ensuring that venues do not create an unacceptably high risk to the health & safety of players and/or spectators. However, the Committee also acknowledge that it could be very challenging to provide venues which are fully compliant with the BWF Laws of Badminton. Any concerns about a venue must be immediately referred to the Committee in writing.

### 1.8 Awarding of Points

The team that wins the majority of rubbers during a match shall be the winner of the match. Only won rubbers will be counted towards the overall match score, drawn rubbers do not count towards the overall match score. Thus should a team win 3 rubbers, draw 4 rubbers and lose 2 rubbers the match score will be 3-2. The winning team will be awarded three points. The losing team will be awarded one point. In drawn matches, each team will be awarded two points. If a team concedes a match, that team will be deducted two points and the opposition awarded three points. Any unplayed matches at the end of the season (April 30th) shall be referred to the Committee.

### 1.9 Changing a Match Date

A team wishing to change the date of a match must give intimation of such to the opposing team at least five days prior to the date arranged. The League Secretary must also be advised of the change in writing by the requesting team. Only hall difficulties will be accepted as an adequate reason for such change. Other reasons, such as not being able to field a "full team" are not considered acceptable. Requests for postponements for reasons other than hall unavailability will be granted at the discretion of the team receiving the request, with there being no obligation for

these requests to be accepted. In the event of a team being unable to play on the date originally fixed and being unable mutually to arrange an alternative date, the matter will be referred to the Committee for a decision.

#### 1.10 Eligibility to Represent (this article also covers the Handicap Cup)

To represent a club, a player must be a full member of that club and must not have represented any other club in the Main League or Handicap Cup that season. Upon submission to the Committee, a player may be granted permission to transfer to another club. Clubs with two or more teams will register the names of the members who will play for the higher graded team(s) with the League Secretary prior to the first match of the season for any of that club's teams. In keeping with the spirit of the competition clubs may only register players who are realistically likely to play in a majority of matches that season. Members registered may not play for the lower graded team(s) for the remainder of the season, but a player from the lower graded team may play twice for a higher graded team. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> occasion that player would be fixed to the higher team. For clubs with more than two teams, a player registered for a lower graded team may play "up" twice. On the third and subsequent occasions a player plays "up" they will be fixed to the lowest higher graded team they played in. If they continue to play "up" from their new fixed team they will become fixed to the lowest higher graded team they have played for on the cumulative 3<sup>rd</sup> match above their current fixed team.

For example if club X has 5 teams competing and player A is registered for team 4 and they play "up" once for team 3, once for team 2 and once for team 1 they will become fixed for team 3 as this is the lowest higher team they represented.

Should player A, after having been fixed to team 3, subsequently play "up" one more match for team 2 they will become fixed to team 2 (as cumulatively they will have played in a team ranked higher than team 3 on three occasions – twice for team 2, once for team 1). In theory Player A could then play "up" for team 1 on two occasions when they would become fixed for team 1 (as that would be their 3<sup>rd</sup> cumulative appearance).

Players who are unregistered at a club with multiple teams will become fixed to a team after playing for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time, in the same fashion as described above. That is to say they will be fixed to the lowest of the 3 teams they have represented. They may then play "up" as described above.

Whether due to registration or once becoming fixed to a team, players may NOT play "down" a team under any circumstances.

Matches played in the Handicap Cup count towards the matches played for each team.

As this is a somewhat complex matter advice may be sought from the Committee at any time.

#### 1.11 Supply of shuttles

The home team shall supply the shuttles.

#### 1.12 Umpires and Scorekeepers

DABA does not have the resources to provide umpires/scorekeepers thus players on court are responsible for keeping the score of the game and for line calls to the best of their ability.

#### 1.13 Retirements

In the event of a player being unable, during a set, to continue playing, he or she and his/her partner must give their opponents a walkover in that set and any subsequent sets and rubbers the retired player was scheduled to play. Any uncompleted/walkover sets will be recorded as 21-0 on the scoresheet. For example if a player in the home team is winning their first set of their first rubber 20 : 7 and then needs to retire, the first set is recorded on the scoresheet as 0 : 21 won by the visiting team and all subsequent sets in which the retired player would have played are recorded as 0 : 21 won by the visiting team.

#### 1.14 Recording of the Result

The Match Secretary of the home team shall, within five days of the completion of the match, provide the result with full details of opponents, venue, date, name of players, sets and rubbers to the League Secretary or provide the above via the DABA website ([www.dundeebadminton.org.uk](http://www.dundeebadminton.org.uk)). The Match Secretary for each team will be provided with a suitable password to facilitate entry of a match result on the DABA website. It is the responsibility of the Match Secretary of each team to ensure that the players that are representing their team have been entered onto the DABA website prior to the match so that the result can be posted. It is also the responsibility of the Match Secretary of each team to ensure that there are no duplicate names for their players on the DABA website. Both of these provisions should be ensured prior to each match.

#### 1.15 Final League Standings

The team, which at the end of the season (April 30th), has accrued the most points, shall be declared the winner of the division. Should there be two or more teams with the same number of points the tie shall be broken based upon (in order): rubber difference (rubbers won minus rubbers lost), number of rubbers won, head to head record. In a head to head scenario the teams' results against each other will be used to break the tie. The team who had the most match wins against the team they are tied with win the head to head. In the event that both teams won the same number of matches against each other a cumulative rubbers score will be used.

E.g. Match 1: Team A 6-3 Team B, Match 2: Team A 3-5 Team B. Both have 1 match win each; cumulative rubbers score: Team A 9-8 Team B, therefore Team A would win the head to head. Should it still be impossible to separate the teams then a deciding match shall be played on a neutral court. In the event that a deciding match is not possible (e.g. there is a 3-way tie) the Committee will decide upon a course of action.

If a team withdraws from the Main League having played one or more matches, the Committee will decide on a suitable course of action.

If, in the opinion of the Committee, any match concession affects the winning of a Division or the relegation from a Division, the Committee will decide on a suitable course of action.

#### 1.16 Promotion/Relegation

As stipulated in Article 1.2 the Committee will have the final say upon which teams are promoted and relegated when confirming the new divisions at the start of any given season. Ordinarily, the winners of each division will be promoted to the division above and the team finishing bottom of their division will be relegated to the division below. There may be circumstances, for example when the number of divisions changes from one season to the next or where a new team enters which would be inappropriate to enter into the bottom division, whereby the Committee will deem it fit to deviate from this norm.

#### 1.17 Disputes, Protests & Conflict on Court

Players are expected to play fairly and within the spirit of the game at all times. Any conflicts on court should, where possible, be dealt with at the time by the players involved or by their respective team captains. Any dispute or protest arising between teams or clubs shall be immediately referred to the Committee in writing. Concerns will be investigated and dealt with by the Committee. In dealing with some cases it may be necessary for one representative from each club concerned in the dispute or protest to attend a meeting with the Committee in order to provide further information to the Committee thus allowing them to decide upon a course of action.

#### 1.18 Standards of Behaviour

All players participating in any DABA event, tournament or league are expected to adhere to the DABA Code of Conduct. This can be found on the DABA website.

## 2.0 Handicap Cup

### 2.1 General Rules

As per Over-arching Rules (Article 1.0)

In addition:

Only teams participating in the Main League are eligible for the Handicap Cup and

The Handicap Cup is a team knock-out competition.

### 2.2 Format of the Handicap Cup

At the Match Secretaries' meeting the draw for the Handicap Cup will be made, by at least two members of the Committee (one being the League Secretary where possible). The draw will be for the first round and for all subsequent rounds (i.e. there will be no further draws for later rounds). Depending on the number of teams competing, some teams may receive a bye in the first round of the Handicap Cup. It is expected that all teams participating in the Main League will compete in the Handicap Cup although teams can opt out of the competition if they wish. During the draw, teams drawn first from the "hat" for each match will be deemed the home team. Once the first round matches have been completed subsequent rounds can be arranged and played. The draw will follow the format shown in Appendix II and shall be posted on the DABA website. Match Secretaries from the respective teams left in the Handicap Cup are responsible for arranging their matches for subsequent rounds.

### 2.3 Handicapping

Prior to the draw each participating team will be allocated a handicap by the Committee. The decision of what handicap to allocate will be based on the previous season's Main League standings and the previous season's Handicap Cup results as well as any other relevant factors. The assigned handicap for each team will remain unchanged throughout that season's Handicap Cup.

### 2.4 Arranging fixtures

Fixtures for the first round of the Handicap Cup will be arranged at the Match Secretaries' meeting at the start of the season, prior to Main League matches being arranged. The team drawn first, and thus the home team, shall arrange the fixture at their home venue. Fixtures for subsequent rounds shall be made by the Match Secretary for each team and the League Secretary informed of fixture dates once they have been arranged.

### 2.5 Format of match

The format of Handicap Cup matches is the same as the Main League with two important exceptions.

- 1) Instead of teams starting each set at 0-0 as they would in the Main League, they will start each set on the number of points indicated by their handicap. For example if team A has a handicap of -6 and team B has a handicap of +4 then each set throughout the match will start with a score of -6 : +4. When teams both have 'minus' or 'plus' handicaps then these will be centralised towards zero. For example -10 : -8 would become -2 : 0 or +8 : +7 would become +1 : 0.
- 2) A set is won by the side who achieves 21 points first, regardless of whether this is by 2 clear points. Thus a set can be won 21 : 20 in the Handicap Cup.

### 2.6 Minimum Team Requirements

As per Main League

## 2.7 Venue

As per Main League

## 2.8 Awarding of Points/Progression to the Next Round

As the Handicap Cup is a knockout competition, there are no points awarded, rather the winning team progresses to the next round. The winning team is determined by counting rubbers won as described for the Main League. In the event of a drawn match, count back will be used to separate the teams. Count back compares the total number of points from each of the set scores accumulated by each team. Only the number recorded on the scoresheet to indicate the scores should be used for the calculation (i.e. a team with a -10 handicap that wins a set 21-15 will use 21 for the calculation of count back not 31 which would be the number of points they actually won during the set). During count back the team that has accumulated the most points throughout the match wins. Should both teams have the same number of points after count back then the tie shall be decided by a single "sudden death" set of mixed doubles to be played immediately following the conclusion of the match. Both captains will select 2 players to play in this game (the players must have played in the match, but need not have played together during the rest of the match). The "sudden death" set will begin with both sides on their respective handicaps. The sides will change ends when the first team reaches 11 points. Whoever wins the "sudden death" set wins the match. If there is insufficient time to play a "sudden death" set then the matter will be referred to the Committee.

## 2.9 Changing a Match Date

As per Main League

## 2.10 Eligibility to Represent

As per Main League

## 2.11 Supply of shuttles

The **away** team shall supply the shuttles.

## 2.12 Umpires and Scorekeepers

As per Main League

## 2.13 Retirements

In the event of a player being unable, during a set, to continue playing, he or she and his/her partner must give their opponents a walkover in that set and any subsequent sets and rubbers the retired player was scheduled to play. Any uncompleted/walkover sets will be recorded as 21-0 on the scoresheet. For example if a player in the home team is winning their first set of their first rubber 20 : 7 and then needs to retire, the first set is recorded on the scoresheet as 0 : 21 won by the visiting team and all subsequent sets in which the retired player would have played are recorded as 0 : 21 won by the visiting team.

If, for any reason, a team withdraws from the Handicap Cup competition, then their opposition automatically receive a bye to the next round (or win the competition if the final is involved).

## 2.14 Recording of the Result

The Match Secretary of the home team shall, within five days of the completion of the match, provide the result with full details of opponents, venue, date, name of players, sets and rubbers to the League Secretary. It is not possible to enter results of Handicap Cup matches directly onto the DABA website and as such all Handicap Cup results must be forwarded to the League Secretary.

### 2.15 The Final

The winners of the two semi-finals will compete in the final of the Handicap Cup. The final shall be played at a neutral venue wherever possible. The venue will be booked by the Committee, and thus the date of the final determined, at the latest, prior to the semi-finals being contested.

### 2.16 Disputes, Protests and Conflict on Court

As per Main League

### 2.17 Standards of Behaviour

As per Main League



Appendix II Handicap Cup Draw (16 teams used for illustrative purposes only)

